

IMA GARDENS FACT SHEET

The IMA is situated on 152 acres of magnificent gardens and grounds, including 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park. The Park, which will open on June 20, 2010, consists of woodlands, wetlands, lake and meadow, and is conceived as an urban oasis for art and nature. In addition to a world-renowned art museum, the IMA campus includes Oldfields—Lilly House & Gardens, a 26-acre estate and historic house museum, and the former home of the late Indianapolis businessman J.K. Lilly Jr. A rare example of an intact American Country Place estate, Oldfields is a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Oldfields' historic gardens and grounds were designed in the 1920s by Percival Gallagher of the famous landscape architecture firm Olmsted Brothers—the same firm that designed New York's Central Park and Chicago's Lincoln Park—and includes a combination of formal and informal components.

Gallagher's vision transformed Oldfields into a fully developed American country estate, anchoring the house firmly in the landscape and providing dramatic views and pleasant garden walks. Among Gallagher's designs for Oldfields were the Allée of trees at the front of the house, the estate entrance and redesign of the Formal Garden. The Ravine Garden, spread upon a hillside between the house and the Indianapolis Water Company Central Canal, was one of Gallagher's most significant contributions to the estate's landscape.

Formal Garden

Located just south of Lilly House, the Formal Garden—with its walled enclosure and geometric planting beds—is a major feature of the 1920s–'30s landscape design of the Oldfields estate. Using archival photographs, the fountain, arbors and lush plantings of this historical garden were reconstructed.

Ravine Garden

The Ravine Garden is a one-acre hillside garden that descends 40 feet from the terrace of Lilly House to the Indianapolis Water Company Central Canal below. The Ravine Garden was restored to Percival Gallagher's vision in 1998, with funding from George and Peggy Rapp, their family, and other generous donors. The dramatic "wild" garden features a cascading stream, three rock-rimmed pools, and more than 19,000 bulbs, perennials, trees and shrubs, in addition to statuary, including *Nymph and Fawn*, a bronze sculpture by Isadore Konti from the IMA's permanent collection.

The Allée

The Allée and Border Gardens bring a combination of panoramic formality and small-scale intimacy to the landscape of the Oldfields estate. The Allée, a sweeping lawn lined with 58 red oak trees, stretches 775 feet in front of Lilly House, terminating with a circular pool and fountain. On each side of the Allée are Border Gardens perfect for a relaxing stroll, as they feature many interesting and unusual combinations of bulbs, perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees.

Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse

Like many American Country Place estates of the early 20th century, Oldfields included a greenhouse to support the needs of planting beds and to supply flowers and vegetables for use in the home. Renovated and expanded in 1994, the greenhouse is located adjacent to Lilly House and offers houseplants, herbs, annuals, perennials and gardening gifts for sale.

Nonie's Garden

This circular garden bed in front of the Museum's Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion was dedicated in honor of Nonie (Eleanor) Krauss in the spring of 2008. Nonie, the late wife of John Krauss, was very involved at the IMA and loved nature, bird watching and gardening. A generous gift from Nonie's husband along with her friends and family allowed the IMA to convert a space that was covered in mulch half of the year into a fully planted year-round garden.

The Orchard

A restoration of the historic orchard on the grounds of Oldfields, made possible by generous funding by Gene and Rosemary Tanner and completed in spring 2009, brings to life a long-lost aspect of estate life. While aesthetically pleasing with its arbor and long borders of perennials, this garden also functions as a working orchard, containing apple and other fruit trees, as well as bush fruits and extensive vegetable beds that feature many heirloom varieties.

Rain Garden

A sustainable and natural solution to a common problem in urban areas, the IMA's rain garden captures and filters storm water runoff from an asphalt parking lot outside the Greenhouse that would otherwise flow into nearby waterways, carrying petroleum products and other pollutants with it. Planted in July 2009 and designed with both functionality and aesthetic appeal in mind, the rain garden is formed by a shallow depression in the ground that is planted with three levels of native and non-native plants. Plants tolerant of wet conditions grow at the lowest level, while drought-tolerant plants are located at the highest level. Educational signage in the garden explains how it was built, so that homeowners and business owners can learn the benefits of rain gardens and how to create their own. The garden was made possible by a grant from the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District, along with the Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation & Development Council.

Museum Gardens

Near the Museum, visitors can enjoy the tree-lined Sutphin Mall, which is anchored by the Sasaki Associates–designed Sutphin Fountain at one end and Robert Indiana's LOVE sculpture at the other. This broad expanse of turf looks like a typical lawn panel but is in fact an intensive "green roof" with layers of trees, shrubs, and perennials that provide shade and have a cooling effect. The roof also reduces water runoff while housing a 250-space parking garage beneath.

At the opposite end of the mall is the Garden for Everyone, a unique garden designed to be accessible to all and appeal to the senses with its colorful blooms, fragrant flowering shrubs, a variety of textured foliage and the sounds of water splashing in a fountain.

Many of the Museum gardens use bold masses of plant material meant to catch the eye from afar. Upon closer examination, visitors can discover a series of intricate plantings with specimen trees throughout. All gardens are meant to be used by the public to gain ideas for plant selection, design and culture for the home landscape.